



**GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

[OMB Control No. 9000-0149; Docket No. 2021-0053; Sequence No. 15]

**Information Collection; Subcontract Consent and Contractors' Purchasing System Review**

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, DoD, GSA, and NASA invite the public to comment on a revision concerning subcontract consent and Contractors' Purchasing System Review. DoD, GSA, and NASA invite comments on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of Federal Government acquisitions, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information

technology. OMB has approved this information collection for use through February 28, 2022. DoD, GSA, and NASA propose that OMB extend its approval for use for three additional years beyond the current expiration date.

**DATES:** DoD, GSA, and NASA will consider all comments received by **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*.]**

**ADDRESSES:** DoD, GSA, and NASA invite interested persons to submit comments on this collection through <https://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions on the site. This website provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field or attach a file for lengthier comments. If there are difficulties submitting comments, contact the GSA Regulatory Secretariat Division at 202-501-4755 or [GSARegSec@gsa.gov](mailto:GSARegSec@gsa.gov).

Instructions: All items submitted must cite OMB Control No. 9000-0149, Subcontract Consent and Contractors' Purchasing System Review. Comments received generally will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal and/or business confidential information provided. To confirm receipt of your comment(s), please check [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), approximately two-to-three days after submission to verify posting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Zenaida Delgado, Procurement Analyst, at telephone 202-969-7207, or [zenaida.delgado@gsa.gov](mailto:zenaida.delgado@gsa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**A. OMB control number, Title, and any Associated Form(s) :**

9000-0149, Subcontract Consent and Contractors' Purchasing System Review.

**B. Need and Uses**

This clearance covers the information that a contractor must submit to comply with the requirements in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 52.244-2, Subcontracts, regarding consent to subcontract, advance notification, and Contractors' purchasing system review as follows:

1. Consent to subcontract. This is the contracting officer's written consent for the prime contractor to enter into a particular subcontract. In order for the contracting officer responsible for consent to make an informed decision, the prime contractor must submit adequate information to ensure that the proposed subcontract is appropriate for the risks involved and consistent with current policy and sound business judgment. The review allows the Government to determine whether the contractor's purchasing policies and practices are efficient and adequately protect the Government's interests.

If the contractor has an approved purchasing system, consent is required for subcontracts specifically identified by the contracting officer in the subcontracts clause of the contract. The contracting officer may require consent to subcontract if the contracting officer

has determined that an individual consent action is required to protect the Government adequately because of the subcontract type, complexity, or value, or because the subcontract needs special surveillance. These can be subcontracts for critical systems, subsystems, components, or services.

If the contractor does not have an approved purchasing system, consent to subcontract is required for cost-reimbursement, time-and-materials, labor-hour, or letter contracts, and also for unpriced actions under fixed-price contracts that exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.

2. Advance notification. Prime contractors must provide contracting officers notification before the award of any cost-plus-fixed-fee subcontract, or certain fixed-price subcontracts that are identified in paragraph (b), (c) and (d) of FAR clause 52.244-2. This requirement for advance notification is driven by statutory requirements in 10 U.S.C. 2306 and 41 U.S.C. 3905.

3. Contractors' Purchasing System Review. The objective of a contractor purchasing system review (CPSR), is to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness with which a contractor spends Government funds and complies with Government policy when subcontracting.

Paragraph (i) of FAR clause 52.244-2 specifies that the Government reserves the right to review the contractor's purchasing system as set forth in FAR subpart 44.3. This

clause is the mechanism through which the requirements of FAR subpart 44.3 are applied to contractors.

FAR 44.302 requires the administrative contracting officer (ACO) to determine the need for a CPSR based on, but not limited to, the past performance of the contractor, and the volume, complexity and dollar value of subcontracts. If a contractor's sales to the Government (excluding competitively awarded firm-fixed-price and competitively awarded fixed-price with economic price adjustment contracts and sales of commercial items pursuant to Part 12) are expected to exceed \$25 million during the next 12 months, the ACO will perform a review to determine if a CPSR is needed. Sales include those represented by prime contracts, subcontracts under Government prime contracts, and modifications. Generally, a CPSR is not performed for a specific contract. The head of the agency responsible for contract administration may raise or lower the \$25 million review level if it is considered to be in the Government's best interest. Once an initial determination has been made to conduct a review, at least every three years the ACO shall determine whether a purchasing system review is necessary. If necessary, the cognizant contract administration office will conduct a purchasing system review.

A CPSR is a thorough review of a contractor's existing procurement policies, procedures, management control

systems (including internal audit procedures), and documentation. The review provides the ACO a basis for granting, withholding, or withdrawing approval of a contractor's purchasing system. An approved purchasing system allows the contractor more autonomy in subcontracting actions. Without an approved purchasing system more Government oversight is necessary, and Government consent to subcontract is required. Generally, a CPSR is not performed for a specific contract. Rather, CPSRs are conducted on contractors based on the factors identified above. For example, the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Contractor Purchasing System Review Group is a group dedicated to conducting CPSRs for the Department of Defense. As of fiscal year (FY) 2018, the group's review workload included more than 500 contractors worldwide.

The cognizant ACO is responsible for granting, withholding, or withdrawing approval of a contractor's purchasing system and for promptly notifying the contractor of same (FAR 44.305-1).

Related administrative requirements are as follows: FAR 44.305-2(c) requires that when recommendations are made for improvement of an approved system, the contractor shall be requested to reply within 15 days with a position regarding the recommendations.

FAR 44.305-3(b) requires when approval of the

contractor's purchasing system is withheld or withdrawn, the ACO shall within 10 days after completing the in-plant review (1) inform the contractor in writing, (2) specify the deficiencies that must be corrected to qualify the system for approval, and (3) request the contractor to furnish within 15 days a plan for accomplishing the necessary actions. If the plan is accepted, the ACO shall make a follow-up review as soon as the contractor notifies the ACO that the deficiencies have been corrected.

**C. Annual Burden**

Respondents: 4,154.

Total Annual Responses: 11,982.

Total Burden Hours: 58,273.

*Obtaining Copies:* Requesters may obtain a copy of the information collection documents from the GSA Regulatory Secretariat Division, by calling 202-501-4755 or emailing [GSARegSec@gsa.gov](mailto:GSARegSec@gsa.gov). Please cite OMB Control No. 9000-0149, Subcontract Consent and Contractors' Purchasing System Review.

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